REMARKS

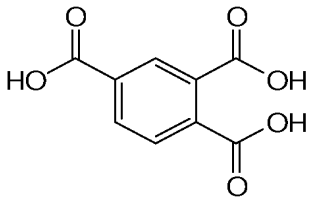
No amendments have been made to the claims or specification. Claims 1-17 and 19-30 are pending; claims 2-5, 7, 11, 12, 14-17, 23, and 25-29 stand withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Applicants note that the previous rejection over U.S. 5,093,382 has been "withdrawn due to the presence of imide groups precluded by the claim language . . . [and] as confirmed by the peak at 168 ppm in the ^{13}C NMR spectra for the closest prior art reaction of Product F." Action at 2.

Claims 1, 6, 8-10, 13, 19-22, 24, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly obvious over U.S. 5,128,441 (Speranza). The Applicants disagree and request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office alleges that Speranza reports "the formation of amide groups via the reaction of polyoxyalkylene diamine and a dicarboxylic anhydride such as trimellitic anhydride." Action at 3. This statement is incorrect. Trimellitic anhydride is not mentioned anywhere is Speranza; rather, trimellitic *acid*, the structural analogue of trimellitic anydride, is referenced at col. 6, lines 47-48. Moreover, trimellitic acid is a *tri*-carboxylic acid:



Speranza only describes the formation of amides when *di*carboxylic acids are used. Speranza at col. 5, lines 7-10; col. 5, line 65-col. 6, line 49. Speranza reports no details of any products that result from the reaction with *tri*-carboxylic acids. The reaction products formed by the reaction of trimellitic acid are not described.

In any event, the reaction conditions set forth in Speranza are similar to those of the 382 patent, *i.e.*, heating the reactants at a temperature from about 150 °C to about 250 °C (Speranza at col. 5, lines 25-28; col. 10, lines 42-45) versus the 382 patent disclosure that instructs to either (1) heat the reactants in toluene at 140 °C or (2) heat the reactants without

solvent at temperatures of about 210-235 °C (382 patent at col. 15, lines 24-29; Schoenfeld Declaration at ¶¶5, 6, 7).

In his November 20, 2007 Declaration, Rainer Schoenfeld established that heating trimellitic anhydride and Jeffamine D-2000, a polyoxyalkylene polyamine, at 210 °C, a temperature within the range set forth in Speranza, results in the formation of imides. In that same Declaration, Mr. Schoenfeld described that heating trimellitic anhydride and Jeffamine D-2000 in toluene at 140 °C also results in the formation of imides. As a result, the Applicants assert that the rejection over Speranza should be withdrawn, at least for the reasons set forth in the previous response and December 13, 2007 Office Action.

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The Applicants assert that the foregoing constitutes a complete response to the pending Office Action and that the claims are allowable over the prior art. A Notice of Allowance to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

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